

What Is Claimed Is:

5.6 A.1  
1. An image forming apparatus replaceably containing a plurality of components; comprising:

5 a non-volatile memory for storing a total print copy number updated each time a prescribed number of print copies are made, and a subsequent replacement schedule copy number for each component; and

10 a controller for judging the lifespan of each component on the basis of a comparison between said total print copy number and said subsequent replacement schedule copy number of each component.

15 2. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, when one of the components is replaced, the subsequent replacement schedule copy number for said component as stored in said non-volatile memory is updated to a value obtained by adding a lifespan copy number previously determined for said component to the total print copy number at the time of  
20 replacement.

3. An image forming apparatus replaceably containing a plurality of components; comprising:

25 a non-volatile memory for storing a total printing time updated each time a prescribed printing time period has elapsed, and a subsequent replacement schedule time period for each component; and

a controller for judging the lifespan of each component on the basis of a comparison between said total printing time and said subsequent replacement schedule time period of each component.

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4. The image forming apparatus according to claim 3, wherein, when one of the components is replaced, the subsequent replacement schedule time period for said component as stored in said non-volatile memory is updated to a value obtained by adding a lifespan time period previously determined for said component to the total printing time at the time of replacement.

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5. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said component is a print unit, a toner cartridge, a fixing unit, or a belt.

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6. The image forming apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said component is a print unit, a toner cartridge, a fixing unit, or a belt.